

Balancing



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Time for a Joke

A woman carrying a backpack is walking along when she sees two men staring up at a flagpole and looking worried. So, she goes up to them and asks what is the problem. The men tell her that they've been asked to measure the height of the flagpole, but they can't think of a way to do it.

The woman takes off her backpack and pulls out a set of wrenches and a tape measure. She selects a wrench and undoes the bolts holding the flagpole base on its platform. Then she tilts the flagpole off the platform and lays it on the ground. She takes the tape measure and runs it along the flagpole.

She tells the men it's 18' 6", puts her things back in her backpack and walks away.

One man turns to the other and says, "Now isn't that just like a woman; you ask her the height, and she gives you the length!"

Facts About Fits

1

					
YOU:	4	3	3	3	
PARTNER:	2	3	3	5	
FIT:	6	6	6	8	26
	One 8-card fit				



13+13 = 26 Cards
 26/4 = 6.5 Avg per suit

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LHO:	4	3	3	3	
RHO:	4	3	3	3	
FIT:	8	6	6	6	26
	One 8-card fit				

					
YOU:	4	3	3	3	
PARTNER:	2	3	4	4	
FIT:	6	6	7	7	26
	Two 7-card fits				

Rare.

					
YOU:	3	4	3	3	
PARTNER:	2	3	3	5	
FIT:	5	7	7	7	26
	Three 7-card fits				

Fact #2: If the opponents have an 8-card fit, there is only one rare mathematical combination where you won't have an 8-card fit as well (above), but then you will have three 7-card fits.

Fact #1: You are guaranteed at least two 7-card fits or one 8+ - card fit on every deal.

The more skewed the opponents' hands are, the more skewed your hands will be.

More Facts About Fits

And the more skewed both sides' hands are, the more tricks each side can take, producing many sacrifice hands.

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	♠	♥	♦	♣	
LHO:	4	3	3	3	
RHO:	5	3	3	2	
FIT:	9	6	6	5	26
	One 9-card fit				

Fact #3: If the opponents have a 9-card fit, your side MUST have at least one 8+-card fit (in this case, in clubs).

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	♠	♥	♦	♣	
LHO:	4	5	2	2	
RHO:	4	3	3	3	
FIT:	8	8	5	5	26
	Two 8-card fits				

Fact #5: If the opponents have two 8-card fits, your side MUST have a 9+-card fit or two 8-card fits also.

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	♠	♥	♦	♣	
LHO:	4	3	3	3	
RHO:	6	3	3	1	
FIT:	10	6	6	4	26
	One 10-card fit				

	♠	♥	♦	♣	
LHO:	4	3	3	3	
RHO:	6	2	2	3	
FIT:	10	5	5	6	26
	One 10-card fit				

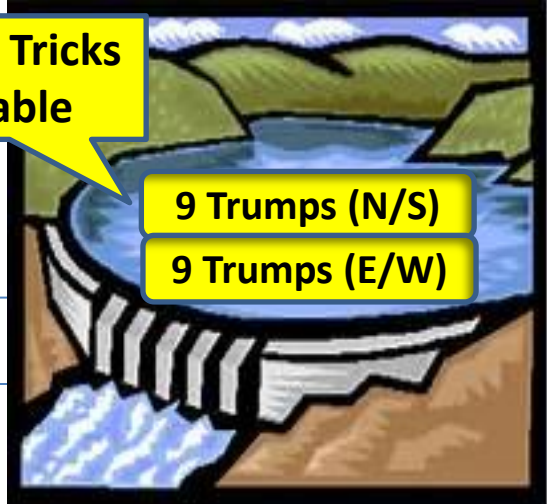
Fact #4: If the opponents have a 10-card fit, your side MUST have at least one 9+-card fit (higher chart) or two 8-card fits (lower chart).

The Law of Total Tricks

18 Total Tricks Available

9 Trumps (N/S)

9 Trumps (E/W)



If the HCPs are evenly split, each side will take as many tricks as they have total trumps

<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
2S	3H*	3S**	2H
Pass	???		Pass

Vul: None
Dir: West

West
 ♠ 105
 ♥ AKJ965
 ♦ 83
 ♣ 963

North

♠ KJ976
 ♥ 1083
 ♦ AQ
 ♣ Q85

East

♠ 84
 ♥ Q42
 ♦ K9542
 ♣ AK2

South

♠ AQ32
 ♥ 8
 ♦ J1076
 ♣ J1074

With a 9-card fit, East should bid 4H. Even if doubled, it goes down 1: -100 vs their +140.

* East bid 3H because they have 9 total hearts.

** South bid 3S to make, because of his 4th spade.

N/S have 9 spades and will take 9 tricks.
 E/W have 9 hearts and will take 9 tricks.

Balancing

IT'S VERY IMPORTANT TO HAVE A BALANCED DIET



- You are in the Balancing Seat when yours will be the last pass.
- Balancing should be considered whenever they find a fit and stop at the 2 level. (If they double you, it will be into GAME.)
- If you get the opponents to the 3 level, you've usually done your job.

Partner will probably have 11+ HCPs.

North	East	South	West
Pass	1H	Pass	2H
Pass	Pass	???	

South

1) ♠J10432 ♥87 ♦Q32 ♣A105

2S

2) ♠Q1083 ♥87 ♦KJ3 ♣K543

Db1*

3) ♠KQ10 ♥Q1097 ♦87 ♣A972

Pass

4) ♠103 ♥87 ♦KQ873 ♣A1075

2NT**

* For take-out, NOT penalties.

No easy way to enter the auction, and you might beat them.

** For the minors, NOT natural.



1-Level Balancing

WEST

Bids in balancing seat may have a king less.

1) ♠KQ105 ♥K93 ♦82 ♣Q843 **DbI**

2) ♠85 ♥A83 ♦73 ♣AQJ973 **2C**

3) ♠QJ ♥K83 ♦QJ53 ♣KJ53 **1NT**

North	East	South	West
1D	Pass	Pass	???

Then rebid 1NT.

4) ♠K85 ♥AQ3 ♦AQ53 ♣Q103 **DbI***

Michaels (can be undisciplined) for the majors.

5) ♠AJ832 ♥QJ976 ♦2 ♣A2 **2D***

Shows a good 6-card suit with 12-16 HCPs.

6) ♠KQ10963 ♥A8 ♦A4 ♣Q54 **2S***

Unusual NT (can be undisciplined) for the 2 lowest suits.

7) ♠63 ♥AK762 ♦4 ♣A8732 **2NT***

Another Joke

So Daffy Duck and Elmer Fudd break into a distillery.

Daffy turns to Elmer and says: “Is this Whiskey?”

Elmer says: “Yeth but not as whiskey as wobbing a bank!!”

Later Round Balancing



<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
1NT	Pass	2D*	Pass
2H	Pass	Pass	???

WEST

♠A1085 ♥3 ♦KQ82 ♣Q1093

Dbl

Sometimes you're forced to bid a 4-card suit.

<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
		1H	Pass
2H	Pass	Pass	???

♠KQ108 ♥8532 ♦A92 ♣J6

2S

Partner will know you're weak – you didn't overcall.

<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
1D	Pass	1H	Pass
2H	Pass	Pass	???

♠108643 ♥86 ♦A42 ♣QJ2

2S

Unusual NT (can be undisciplined) for the 2 lowest suits.

<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
		1H	Pass
2H	Pass	Pass	???

♠63 ♥82 ♦AQ84 ♣QJ962

2NT*

Be careful when the opponents haven't found a fit.

<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
1D	Pass	1H	Pass
2D	Pass	Pass	???

♠J93 ♥A76 ♦983 ♣KJ102

Pass

Playtime

